

SALLY SOUTHERN

SEWING PATTERNS FOR BAGS

STYLISH BAG PATTERNS FOR BEGINNERS



stitch | craft
create

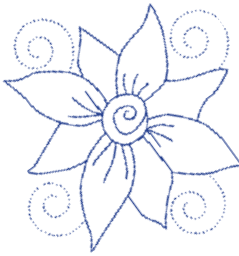
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Sewing Bags ...



It's a fact of life that every girl loves bags, and it is never possible to have too many! I'm still putting this theory to the test... This book will give you a taste of how quick and easy (not to mention fun!) it is to make your own bags, choosing fabrics and embellishments that you love!

All the bags featured are simple to make and many of them are suitable for even total beginners who've never picked up a needle and thread in their life. By choosing the fabrics and colours carefully you can have a selection of fantastic bags to cover all occasions.

You don't need expensive or specialist equipment to make your own bags – just a basic sewing kit and sewing machine. The key to making fabulous bags is to choose the fabrics carefully. Look out for materials that inspire you – they could be bought from haberdashery stores, or from the internet, or you could even use cut-up clothing! Add buttons, beads and sequins, ribbons and braids, or anything else you like!

Bag handles and accessories are becoming ever easier to buy – the internet has a vast selection of suppliers, where you can find all you need. Handles come in a variety of styles and materials, from sophisticated metals and stylish wood to funky coloured plastic, so you can get the look you really want.

This book should inspire you to make bags that suit your own style and personality – and hopefully have fun while doing it!

Happy bag making!

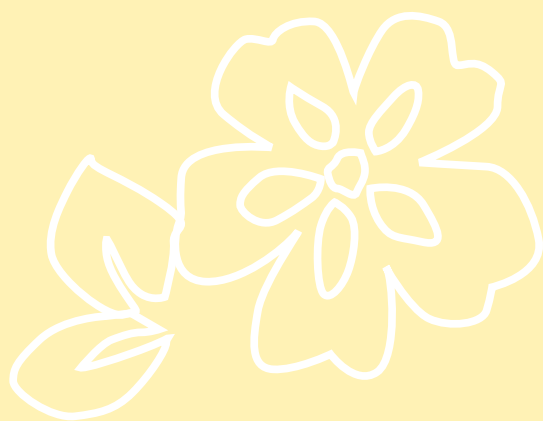


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Shabby chic



Every girl needs a handbag they can rely on which will hold all your essentials, such as lippy, purse, keys and emergency snacks, but which will also look stylish with whatever you are wearing. This classic tote bag is the simplest bag to make ever. Suitable for even the most unsure beginner, you can make this bag in any fabric, in any colour and in any size to match every outfit!



Simply dotty

LOVE THE LOOK?

Follow the same design to create loads of different styles of bag with different materials and textures, for example swirly patterns sewn in, fabric floral embellishments and attention-grabbing materials.



Sweet treat



Funky florals



fabulous fabric

Choose two contrasting fabrics which work well together. I've chosen a floral cotton fabric with a retro feel, and matched it with a cotton spotted fabric in green. Both the fabrics should be made out of the same fabric (e.g. cotton). They are also paired with a bright yellow cotton as a lining fabric – for linings you can be as bold as you like with colour to really make it stand out when you peek inside the bag!



1 Cut two pieces of floral fabric, each 26 x 24cm (10 x 9½in), then trim two pieces of green spotted fabric, each 26 x 11cm (10 x 4¾in). Cut two pieces of yellow fabric, which will be the lining of the bag, each 33 x 26cm (13 x 10in). Pin the floral fabric to the green spotted fabric along the 26cm (10in) edge, right sides together, and sew. Open the seams and press with an iron.



2 Cut two lengths of red gingham ribbon with a width of 1.5cm (¾in), each 26cm (10in). Use fabric glue to carefully stick the ribbon along the join of the fabrics and leave to dry completely.



bag the essentials:

- * Floral cotton fabric
- * Green spotted cotton fabric
- * Yellow cotton fabric
- * Red gingham ribbon, 1.5cm (¾in) width
- * Red gingham ribbon, 0.5cm (¼in) width
- * 2 bamboo 'D' shape handles
- * Cream machine thread
- * Basic sewing kit

finished size 30 x 23.5cm (12 x 9in)



3 When dry, place the front and back panels of the bag together, right sides facing each other and pin along the sides and bottom. Sew these three sides together. Do the same with the lining fabric.



4 Turn the bag through to the right side and press flat. Keep the lining inside out. Push the lining inside the bag and smooth so it fits properly. Fold the top edge of the bag over two times so that it covers the lining and there are no raw edges showing. Press with the iron and pin in place. Sew around the top edge.



5 Cut four lengths of the 0.5cm (¼in) width red gingham ribbon, each 10cm (4in) long. Carefully thread each length through the hole at the bottom of the bamboo handles.



6 Pin the ribbons that hold the handles in place at the top of the bag, inside the opening and secure with small stitches.



Funky florals

This bag is maybe the simplest bag to make – the front and back panels are made from bought place mats, which are the ideal size for this bag. Simply sew them together along three sides, add straps and voila! At last you can have a bag which is big enough to hold all your favourite magazines, so you are never behind on what's happening in the world of celebdom.

1 Take one of the fabric place mats and decorate the front by tracing a leaf pattern (see Templates) onto bondaweb and ironing onto the back of red floral fabric. Cut out and then iron down the right-hand side of the front panel of the bag.

2 Trace two flower shapes (see Templates) onto bondaweb and iron onto the back of plain red fabric. Cut out and iron on top of the leaf shapes. Stitch buttons in the centre of the flowers with red embroidery thread. Place the front and back panels of the bag together and pin along the sides and bottom, then stitch.

3 Use fabric glue to stick a length of red ric rac braid along the top edges of the bag and wait until dry. Pin and stitch red bias binding ribbon along the sides and bottom of the bag.

4 Cut two lengths of pale blue grosgrain ribbon, 1.5cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ in) in width, each 65cm (26in), and stitch inside the top edges of the bag, to make straps.



ARM CANDY

Choose a large print, as the bag is fairly large, and stick to a simple colour scheme – two colours for the background (blue and white) and a bright colour for contrast (in this case, red).

bag the essentials:

- * 2 fabric place mats, blue and white floral print
- * Red cotton fabric
- * Red floral print fabric
- * Red bias binding
- * Red ric rac braid
- * 2 white buttons
- * Pale blue grosgrain ribbon, 1.5cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ in) wide
- * Red embroidery thread
- * Red sewing machine thread
- * Basic sewing kit

finished size 38 x 33.5cm
(15 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ in)



Simply dotty

Bold patterns are the next big thing in bags. Using brightly coloured felt and beads on this neutral coloured bag really gives it a lift. Make sure you also choose a bright contrasting fabric for the lining too.

1 Cut two pieces of stone spotted fabric 19 x 22cm (7.5 x 8 7/10in), and two pieces of stone floral fabric 10 x 22cm (4 x 8 7/10in). Cut two pieces of bright pink cotton fabric for the lining, 27 x 22cm (10 3/8 x 8 7/10in). This bag is made up in the same way as the shabby chic tote bag on page 4.

2 Sew large stitches in pink embroidery thread along the join of the two fabrics at the front, and a row of pink running stitch along the top edge of the bag. Use the templates to cut two flowers out of felt, one in turquoise and one in lime green.

3 Sew blanket stitch around the edge of the turquoise flower in orange thread and running stitch along the centre of the lime green petals. Cut out a bright pink circle to go in the centre of the flower (see Templates) and sew

running stitch around the edge in turquoise thread. Take a small orange felt ball and sew red seed beads onto it, with a turquoise sequin with a red bead on it at the top. This will go at the centre of the flower.

4 Stitch the finished flower onto the bag. Sew a large pink felt ball with orange seed beads in the top centre. Sew pink running stitch along the centre of a 14cm (5.5in) length of cream cotton woven ribbon. Stitch at the top of the back panel to make a loop to fasten onto the pink ball. Cut a 120cm (47in) length of the same ribbon and sew pink running stitch along the middle. Sew this at the sides to make a long strap. Thread several felt balls together and decorate with seed beads to make a bag charm.

bag the essentials:

- ✿ Stone coloured spotted cotton fabric
- ✿ Stone floral cotton fabric
- ✿ Hot pink cotton fabric
- ✿ Felt in turquoise, orange, lime and hot pink
- ✿ Felt balls, various sizes, same colours as felt
- ✿ Embroidery thread in hot pink, turquoise and orange
- ✿ Seed beads and sequins, bright colours
- ✿ Cotton woven ribbon, cream
- ✿ Cream sewing machine thread
- ✿ Basic sewing kit

finished size 24 x 20cm
(9 1/2 x 7 7/10in)



ARM CANDY
When attaching the strap for this bag, make sure it's the right length for you by pinning it first and trying it on. Make any adjustments needed before you stitch it in place.



Sweet treat

This delicious-looking handbag looks good enough to eat! To stop this being too 'cutesy' I've used a grey felt to make the bag, and added sweet looking fabric and beads to add decoration. The candy striped handles also add to the fun theme of the bag and lighten the severity of the grey background. As it's made out of felt there's no need for hemming, as felt doesn't fray and is extremely easy to use. The details really make the bag, so spend time choosing beads, buttons and fabrics carefully.

1 Make a paper template (see Templates) for the shape of the bag, with the top edge 21.5cm (8½in) and a depth of 17cm (6.5in). Use the template to cut out two pieces of thick grey felt. Trace the shapes needed for the cupcake (see Templates) onto bondaweb and then iron onto the back of the relevant fabrics (white felt for the icing, beige felt for the cake, pink spotted cotton for the case).

2 Cut out the shapes and position onto the front of one of the grey felt pieces and iron to fix in place. Hand stitch around the edges of the

shapes and to make the stripes on the case. Sew a few multi-coloured seed beads onto the icing and stitch a red button on the top like a cherry.

3 Along the top edge of the bag, sew a row of small white buttons using pink thread. Place a length of ruffled pink and white striped ribbon between the front and back panels of the bag, pin and stitch. Cut four lengths of pale pink ribbon, 1cm (½in) width, and thread through the holes at the bottom of the striped plastic 'D' shaped handles. Stitch the ribbons at the top of the bag to secure the handles in place.

bag the essentials:

- * Grey thick felt
- * Craft felt in beige and white
- * Pink spotted cotton fabric
- * Embroidery thread in pink
- * Seed beads, various colours
- * Red button
- * Several small white buttons
- * Pink and white striped 'D' shaped handles
- * Pale pink ribbon, 1cm (½in) width
- * Pink and white striped ruffle ribbon
- * Basic sewing kit

finished size 18 x 23cm (7 x 9in)



ARM CANDY
You can afford to go over the top with cuteness on this bag – look out for beads and buttons that look like candies!

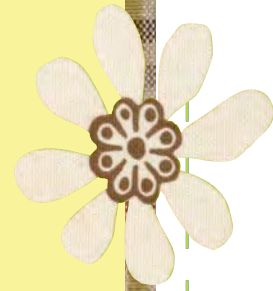


Nature girl

Make a handy big bag that's also super-stylish too! It's just the right size to carry magazines, books, folders and all those 'must-have' accessories to see you through the day.

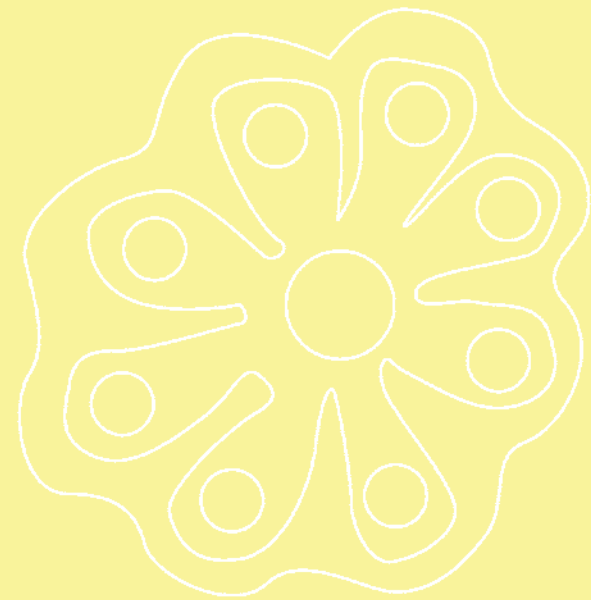
Throw in a matching mp3 player case and mobile or cell phone pouch and you're good to go!

Try to use sturdy fabrics, such as furnishing fabrics which come in fantastic and funky designs to make your bag practical as well as looking good!



LOVE THE LOOK?

A stylish pouch can also be made using a matching piece of fabric from the bag. Ideal as an mp3 player case, mobile phone pouch or sunglasses holder!



fabulous fabric

For this bag I chose a large print heavy cotton furnishing fabric to make the body of the bag in green, cream and browns. To contrast with this I found a plain green fabric in the same weight. As it's a large bag, look for fabric with a large scale print.



1 Cut the printed fabric so that you have a piece 30 x 37cm (12 x 14½ in) and a piece 58 x 37cm (22½ x 14½ in). Trim the stiffener so that you have two pieces the same size as the printed fabric pieces. Cut the lime green fabric so that you have a piece 95 x 12cm (37½ x 4¾ in). Tack the stiffener onto the back of the printed fabrics.



2 The smaller piece of printed fabric will be the front of the bag, the larger piece will be the back panel and front flap. Pin the long green strip of fabric so that it goes down one side of the patterned fabric, along the bottom and up the other side (right sides together). Sew, and then pin and sew the back panel in place too. Turn through to the right side so you have a bag shape. Now remove the tacking stitches.



bag the essentials:

- * Furnishing fabric in beige leaf and flower print
- * Lime green furnishing fabric
- * Beige lining material
- * Strengthening Vilene
- * Magnetic fastening snaps
- * 4 metal stud feet
- * Bag bottom stiffener
- * Safety pin
- * Basic sewing kit

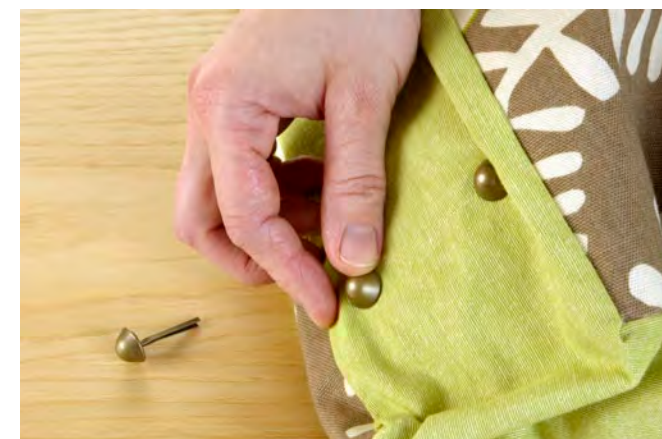
finished size 28 x 40cm
(11 x 16in)



3 Cut the lining fabric so that you have a piece 37 x 100cm (14¾ x 39¾ in), and two pieces 30 x 12cm (12 x 4¾ in). Pin the smaller panels down the long edges of the lining material, along the bottom of the small panels and up the other edge at each side, so that you have a bag shape similar to the one you've just made. Sew the lining pieces together.



5 Double fold the open edge at the front flap inwards, pin and stitch to make a neat hem.

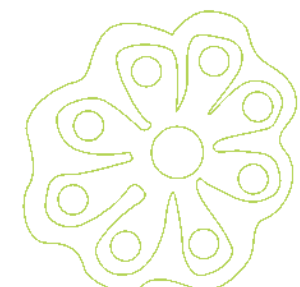


4 Turn the main bag inside out again, and slide the lining fabric over it. Pin and sew, leaving the edge at the end of the front flap open. Turn the bag through to the right side so that the lining is in place.



6 Cut a piece of bag bottom stiffener 35 x 10cm (13½ x 4 in) and cover it with the patterned fabric, using double-sided tape.

7 Place the covered panel at the bottom of the bag and secure in place by attaching the metal stud feet to the bottom of the bag and through the stiffener board.





8 Mark the position of the magnetic snap fastener on the front of the bag and the inside of the flap, and then attach them in place.



9 Cut out a circle of patterned fabric backed with bondaweb (to prevent fraying) that will cover the magnetic snap on the front of the flap and then stitch it in place.



10 Cut a length of patterned fabric 8 x 122cm (3 x 47 3/4 in) to form the strap. Fold in half along the length, right sides together, pin and sew.



11 Use a safety pin to turn the strap through to the right side. Press with an iron, and then sew again along either side 0.5cm (1/2 in) in from each edge.



12 Fold the raw edges of the strap under and pin onto each side of the bag. Stitch securely in place.



ARM CANDY
This bag is ideal for college or work – you could stitch a couple of simple pockets into the lining to keep smaller items such as your phone, pens and mp3 player.

Just in case

If you've ever rummaged around in the bottom of your bag for your phone, sunglasses or mp3 player you will be glad of this handy little item to keep everything in its rightful place.



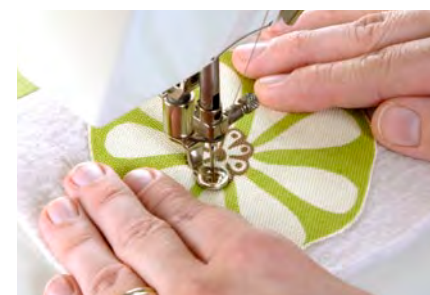
ARM CANDY
Make this pouch in the same way, but alter the sizes to make a snazzy sunglasses case.



1 Cut a piece of cream fleece 12 x 14cm (4 7/10 x 5.5 in), and a piece of green fabric 8 x 14cm (3 x 5.5 in). Pin the two fabrics together along the 14cm (5.5 in) edge and sew.



3 Fold the panel of fabric in half, right sides together, and pin along the side and bottom, leaving the top open. Sew. Open seam and press.



2 Back patterned fabric with bondaweb and cut out a flower. Put in centre of cream fleece, iron and sew round edge. Fold over green fabric, leaving a 4cm (1.5 in) border above cream fabric. Pin and sew 1cm (1/2 in) above join of fleece and green fabric.



4 Turn through to the right side, and press flat. Cut thin cream ribbon 10cm (4 in) long. Fold in half and sew the raw edges in the middle top on the back of the pouch so that you have a fastening loop. Sew a green wooden bead onto the front to fasten.

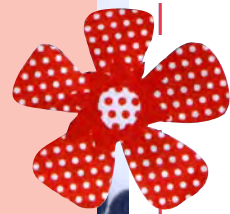
bag the essentials:

- * Cream fleece fabric
- * Lime green furnishing fabric
- * Patterned furnishing fabric
- * Green wooden bead
- * Cream ribbon, 0.3cm (2/10 in) width
- * Basic sewing kit

finished size 13 x 6cm
(5 x 2.5 in)

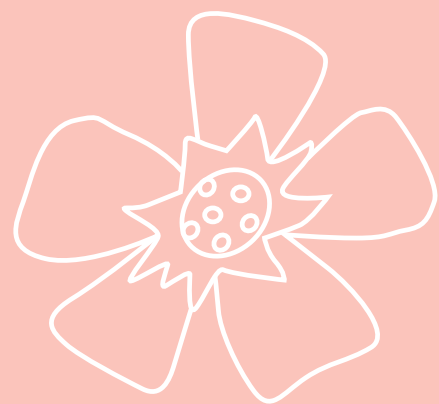
Shopaholic!

This value-for-money bag is reversible so you get two looks in one. Ideal for those days when you can't find the exact bag to go with your perfect outfit, now you can simply turn the bag inside out to get a completely fresh look. It's also really spacious with a wide opening so you can really go to town with your shopping too! The corsage is removable, and you can even make a themed purse to go with it.



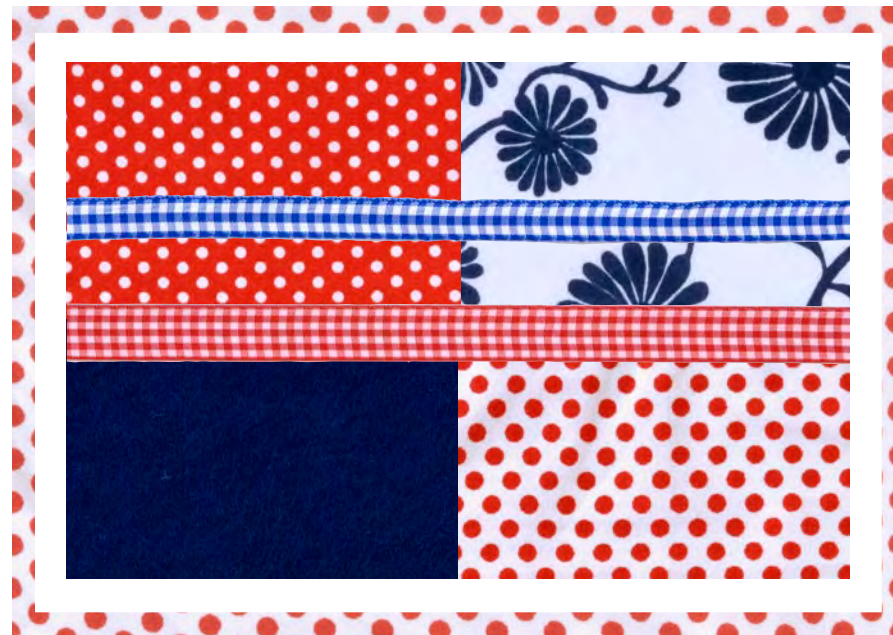
LOVE THE LOOK?

No bag is complete without an adorable purse too. Continue the floral theme with a matching purse made out of felt. So cute everyone will want one!



fabulous fabric

Choose bold colours for this bag, in cotton fabrics. The simple palette of red, white and blue works really well. The floral and polka dot prints contrast fantastically, but because only three colours are used, everything matches harmoniously.



bag the essentials:

- * White cotton fabric with blue floral print
- * Red polka dot cotton fabric
- * Plain red cotton fabric
- * White and red polka dot cotton fabric
- * Navy felt
- * Selection of red and blue ribbons and ric rac braid
- * 2 hoop handles
- * Small red button
- * Safety pin
- * Basic sewing kit

finished size 50 x 34cm
(19½ x 13½in)



1 Cut two pieces of the white and blue print fabric, 40 x 52cm (16 x 20½in), and two pieces of the red polka dot fabric the same size. Trace one large and two small flower shapes and centres (see Templates) onto bondaweb and iron onto the reverse of the various red fabrics. Cut out the shapes and arrange them at the bottom right hand corner of one of the pieces of white and blue print fabric.



2 Mark each of the pieces of fabric at either side, 18cm (7in) from the top. Place the two pieces of white and blue print fabrics together, right sides facing and pin and sew down the sides and along the bottom from the mark at one side to the mark at the other. Repeat this process with the red polka dot fabrics.



3 Turn one of the bags through to the right side and place one bag inside the other. Fold in and press the sides of the bags that haven't been sewn and stitch them up so that the two bags are now stitched together along this seam.



4 Cut two pieces of plain red fabric each 42 x 12cm (16½ x 4¾in). On each piece, fold under and press along each long edge so that the raw edge is hidden and then fold under the ends by 1cm (½in) and press, pin and then sew.



5 Fold the red fabric pieces in half long ways and pin and sew along the top edge of the front opening of the bag. Now repeat with the top edge of the back opening of the bag.



6 Take one of the handles, fold the red fabric over it, pin and sew so that the handle is attached. Repeat with the other handle.



7 Hand stitch small stitches at either end of the red fabric close to the handle.



ARM CANDY

It's best to keep the colour scheme to just two or three colours for this bag – it will give it a much cleaner and stylish look. Also, try to make sure the fabrics are all made out of the same fabric (i.e. cotton) and are the same weight.

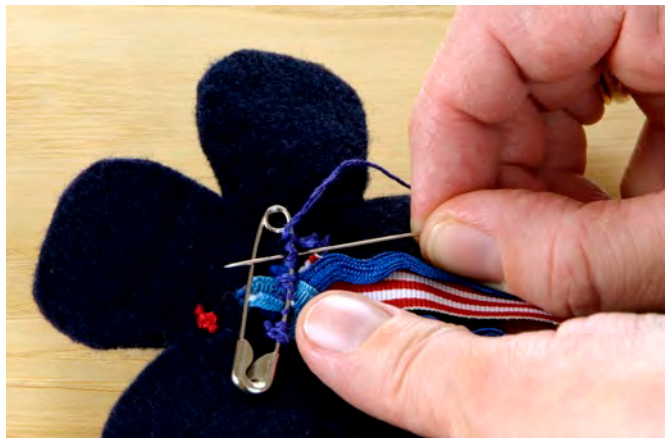
Pretty petals

Change your look again with this funky detachable corsage. Featuring colours and fabrics from both sides of the bag ensures that it will go perfectly with either side, creating several fab looks with just a few minor adjustments.

To make the corsage



1 Make the corsage by cutting a large flower out of navy felt and stitching small red running stitch around the edges. Iron bondaweb onto the back of the white and blue floral fabric and cut out a flower shape from flower print fabric. Iron at the centre of the felt flower, and sew a small red button in the middle.



2 Cut several strands of red and blue ribbons to various lengths and stitch at the back of the corsage. Sew a safety pin onto the back of the corsage so that it can be pinned onto the bag.

bag the essentials:

- * Navy felt
- * Flower print fabric, white and blue
- * Small red button
- * Selection of ribbons and braids
- * Safety pin
- * Embroidery thread in red and navy
- * Basic sewing kit

finished size 9 x 10cm
(3.5 x 4in)



ARM CANDY

This corsage is detachable so that you can use it on both sides of the bag, or remove it and wear it as a brooch.



DOUBLE TROUBLE

Simply turn the bag inside out to reveal a completely new theme from the floral side. Add the dainty corsage and get ready paint the town red!



Money bags

Be the envy of all your friends and acquaintances with a sweet little purse for keeping all your spare change in. When buying the metal clasp fastening for the purse, try to get one that can be stitched onto, instead of glued. This makes it much easier to attach the felt body of the purse, especially as felt doesn't fray and doesn't need hemming.



bag the essentials:

- * Felt, navy blue and red
- * Purse fastening
- * Navy blue embroidery thread
- * White and navy print fabric
- * Small red button
- * Basic sewing kit

finished size 9.5 x 8cm
(3 7/10 x 3 in)



1 Draw around your purse fastening and make a paper template for the purse.



2 Cut out two pieces in navy felt.



3 Cut out a red felt flower and bondaweb a blue print flower in the centre. Sew around the edge of the flower with blue running stitch. Sew a small red button in the centre of the flower, attaching the flower to one of the pieces of blue felt.



4 Place the two pieces of navy blue felt together, right sides facing and sew around the edges from the two points where the frame will attach. Turn through to the right side and press. Stitch the purse onto the frame, front and back.



Templates

All the templates you need for the bags are shown here. If you need to make a paper template, you can pin it onto the fabric and then either cut it out around the template or use a fabric pen or pencil to draw around the template and then cut it out. If you are cutting out multiple pieces the same size, it's often quicker and easier to layer the fabrics and pin the template onto all of them so you can cut them out in one go. If you want to use the patterns at a smaller or larger size, simply photocopy the templates and enlarge or reduce as required.

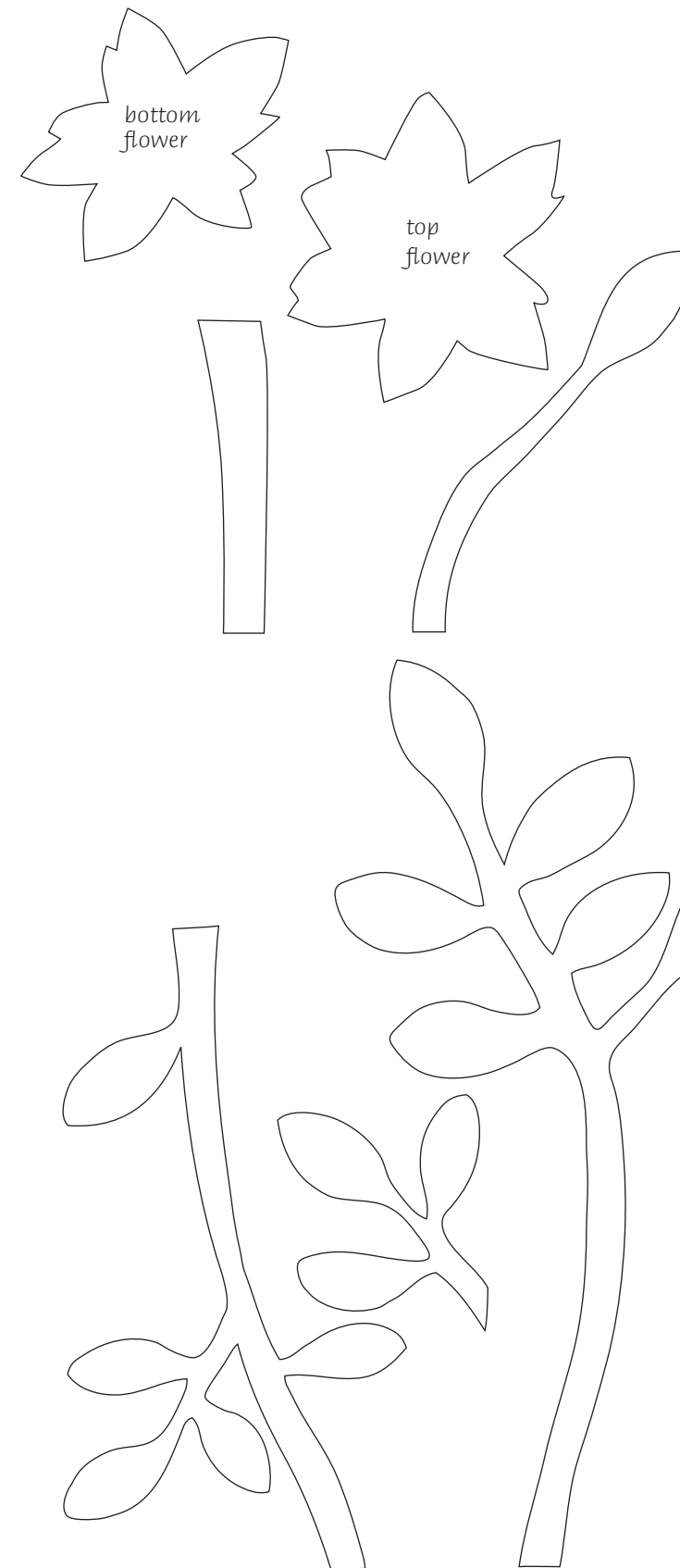
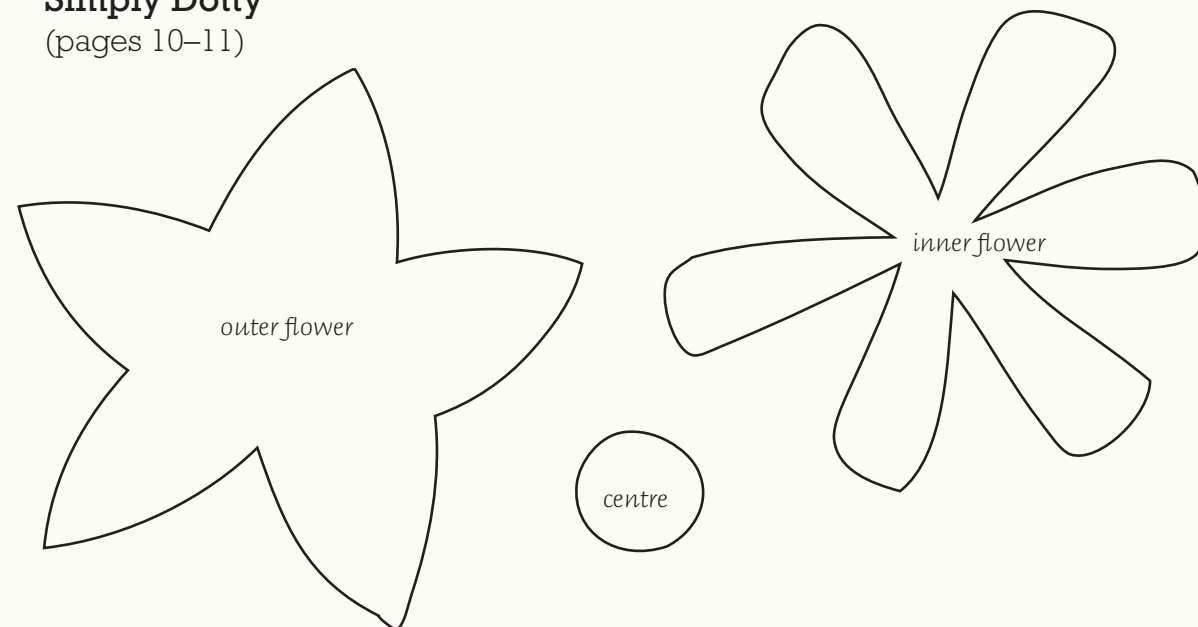


TOP TIP

When tracing the shapes onto bondaweb, remember that the finished image will be reversed.



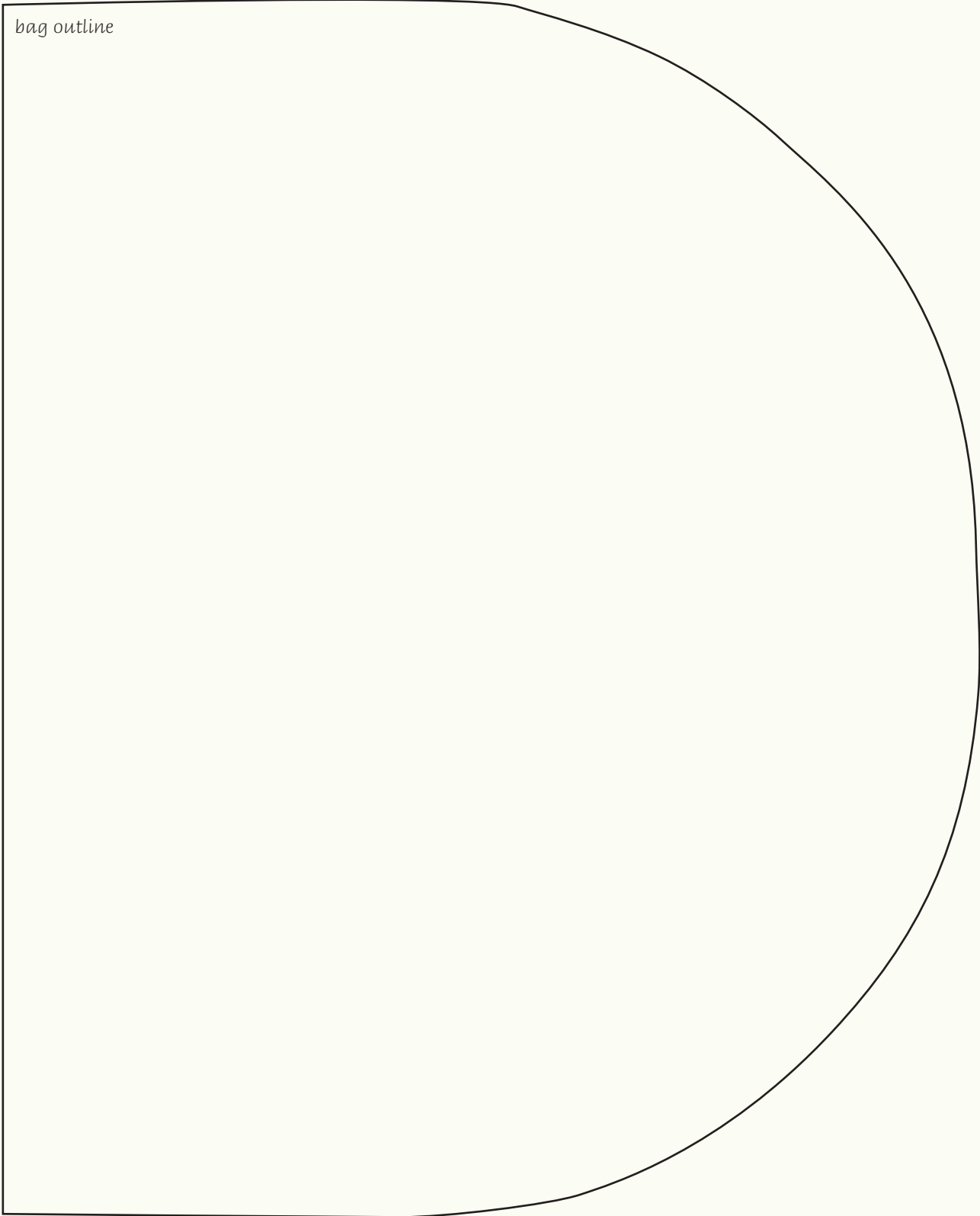
Simply Dotty (pages 10–11)



Funky Florals (pages 8–9)

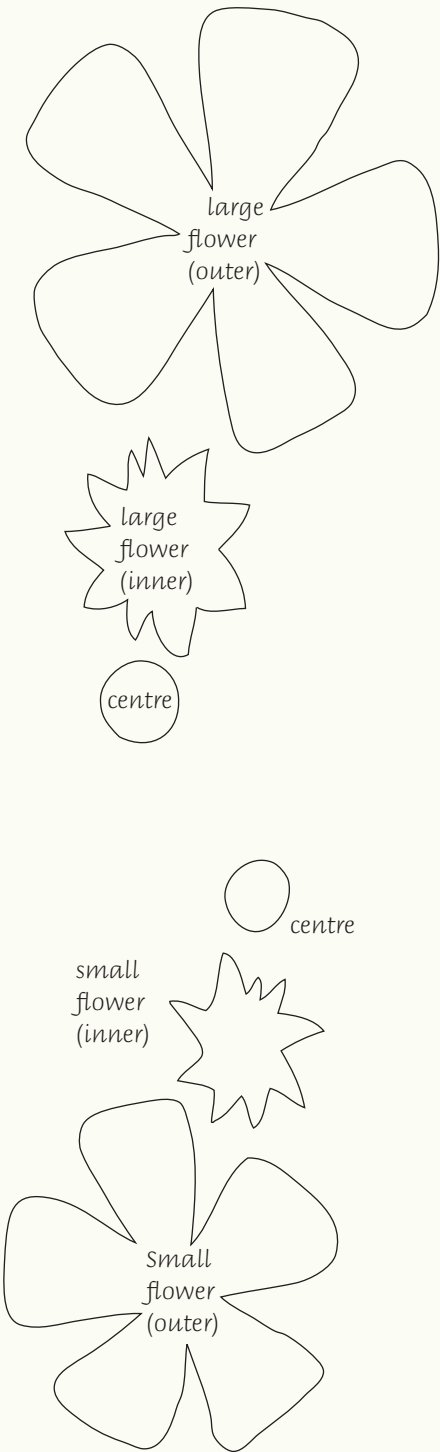
Note: This template is shown at 50%; you will need to enlarge by 200%.

Sweet Treat (pages 12–13)

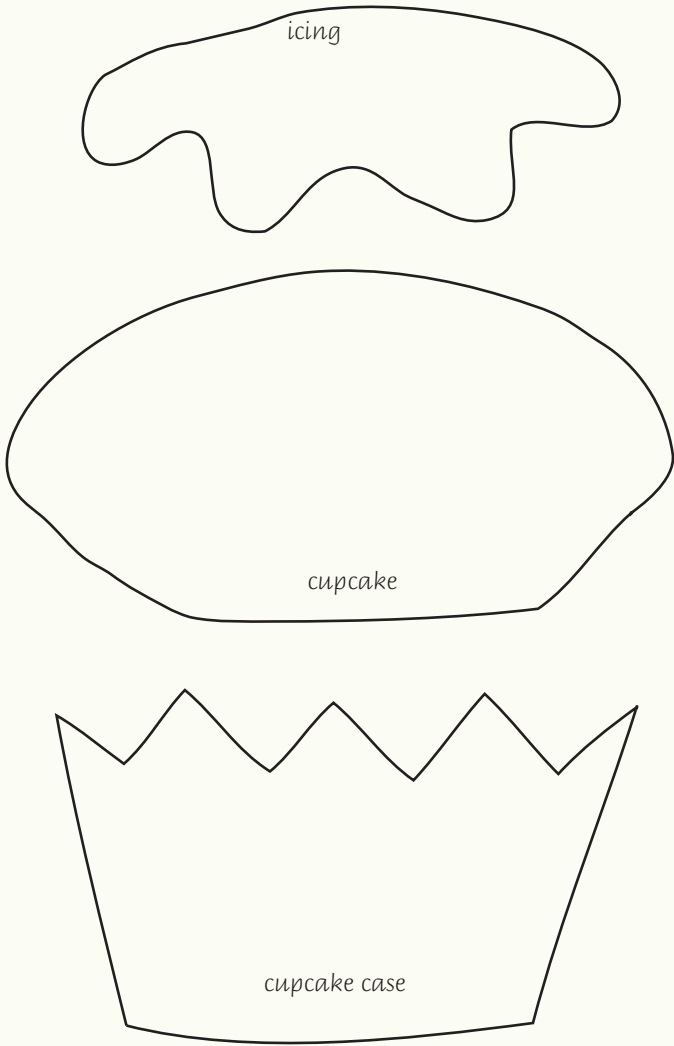


Shopaholic (pages 20–26)

Note: These templates are shown at 50%;
you will need to enlarge by 200%.



Sweet Treat (pages 12–13)





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About the Author

Sally Southern is a textile artist and designer living and working in the seaside town of Cullercoats in the north east of England. She contributes regularly to craft magazines, is a community art worker, designs children's fashion and furnishing fabrics and produces her own work. Sally has a lot of bags and never misses a chance to add to her collection.



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